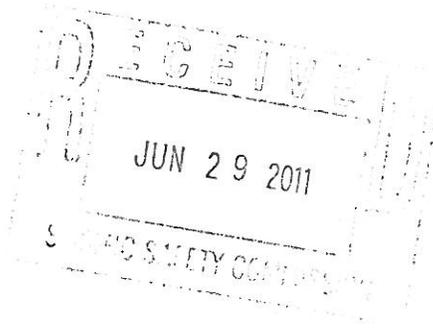


June 28, 2011



CALIFORNIA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

Providing Leadership in Health Policy and Advocacy

Mr. Richard McCarthy
Executive Director
California Seismic Safety Commission
1755 Creekside Oaks Drive, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95833

Dear Mr. McCarthy,

The California Hospital Association (CHA), which represents approximately 400 hospitals and health systems, is pleased that the California Seismic Safety Commission (CSSC) is supportive of the University of San Diego (UCSD) shake table project to investigate the performance of non-structural components of buildings. CHA is especially pleased that two of the five floors of the project are devoted to a hospital intensive care unit and a surgery suite.

In both the 1989 Loma Prieta and 1994 Northridge earthquakes, damage to equipment and nonstructural systems significantly degraded the ability of our hospitals to function, though most hospitals buildings themselves suffered little structural damage. Thanks to the efforts of the California Seismic Safety Commission, we have made much progress in the design, regulation, and operation of hospitals to better prepare us for future events. In spite of this success, questions remain regarding the influence of seismic damage on the fire performance of our hospitals.

The intent of the Alfred E. Alquist Act of 1983 is to ensure hospitals are capable of providing services to the public after a disaster. Fire following an earthquake threatens our ability to meet this objective. Emergency evacuation of patients poses a significant risk to their health and safety. In the event of fire, the primary objective is to shelter patients and staff in place. To achieve this we depend on both active and passive fire protection systems. No information exists to verify that fire systems will be operational after a large earthquake.

It is CHA's understanding that phase 1, the seismic component of the project is finalized, but phase 2, pertaining to the fire test, is still being debated. CHA encourages the CSSC to support phase 2 of the UCSD project to investigate the behavior of fire systems after an earthquake. CHA thanks you for consideration to this request and your continued leadership in hospital seismic safety.

If you have any questions, please contact me, at (916) 552-7570 or rrichter@calhospital.org.

Sincerely,

C. Duane Dauner
President

CDD/RR:bw

cc: California Seismic Safety Commissioners